



Friday, 16th December 2016

Old Court Room, Town Hall, Wakefield

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Proposals for a National Police and Crime Panel Association

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek the Panel's views on the possibility of establishing a national association of Police and Crime Panels.

2. Background:

- 2.2 At the recent National Police and Crime Panel Conference in Birmingham, a discussion took place regarding the potential for an Association of Police and Crime Panels.
- 2.3 Panels are being asked to indicate whether there is an interest in looking further into the formation of a National Association of Police and Crime Panels.

3. Proposals for a national association

- 3.1 Police and Crime Panels have struggled to make their voice heard in their dealings with the Home Office in relation to the lack of clarity of the role and lack of any real powers to be able to hold a commissioner to account. The potential benefits of Police and Crime Panels having a national voice was raised at the recent National Police and Crime Panel Conference hosted by Frontline Consulting. As a result Panels are being asked to give an indication of their support or otherwise for the idea.
- 3.2 It is suggested that a number of potential benefits would appear to flow from having a national association:
- having a recognised voice to represent views at a national level
 - providing support and development
 - being better able to provide national leadership and influence change
 - consulting members to develop consolidated views

- disseminating best practice, ensuring consistency and identifying efficiencies by working together
- taking co-ordinated action that can help remove barriers at a national level
- providing a forum for debate
- representing and promoting the interests of panels to key stakeholders and partners
- increasing the visibility and status of panels
- providing support and guidance
- enabling panels to prepare for change, for instance in becoming Police and Fire Panels.

3.3 If Panels are supportive in principle of the proposals of an Association led by the Panels themselves, then it is proposed that an early meeting of Chairs and Support Officers takes place to consider appropriate Terms of Reference, a governance model and logistics, including establishing whether the LGA, CfPS (Centre for Public Scrutiny) or similar could provide support.

3.4 Frontline Consulting who have worked with most Panels in England and Wales through conferences, regional networks, learning and development activity and induction work, have suggested that they would be willing to assist at the formative stages and are suggesting that they facilitate an exploratory meeting, probably in London, early in the new year.

4. Recommendation:

4.1 Panel Members are asked to consider supporting the further investigation of the possibility of creating a national association of Police and Crime Panels.